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10 August 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of Selected Members of the Senate  
Aeronautical and Space Sciences Committee -  
2 August 1965 - 3:00 p.m.

1. Dr. Wheelon conducted a briefing of the Soviet Space program with selected members of the Senate Aeronautical and Space Sciences Committee. Present from the Committee were:

Clinton P. Anderson, Chairman  
Warren G. Magnuson  
Stuart Symington  
Margaret Chase Smith  
James J. Gehrig, Acting Staff Director

Accompanying Dr. Wheelon were:

Carl E. Duckett

John S. Warner

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There was a sweep of the room but no transcript was taken.

2. Basically Carl Duckett conducted the briefing utilizing a series of prepared charts. The subject matter of the various charts will be listed with additional comments where necessary.

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(i) Map orienting to the missile test areas and impact areas.

(ii) Chart of the various boosters used by the Soviets excluding the newest large one.

(iii) A basic graphic display of the various Soviet space activities by programs.

(iv) Details on the man in space shots by the Soviets. It was pointed out that we can expect one or more additional events this summer and probably there will be another first as has been the pattern in the Soviet shots.

(v) Graphic display of the details of the Soviet satellite reconnaissance effort.

(vi) Chart depicting deep space efforts of the Soviets.

(vii) Program by chart depicting the Soviet communications satellite program.

(viii) A more detailed chart on the same program as in (vii).

(ix)



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program. It was pointed out that the Soviets have made overtures to the French in terms of leasing the French circuits on the Soviet communications satellite indicating possibility of rendering booster support to the French missile program. Dr. Wheelon made it clear that there was ample evidence that the Soviets may be a serious commercial competitor for ComSat.

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(x) Chart depicting the growth of the launch facilities at Tyura Tam to the present point where there are some 50 launch pads at the complex.

(xi) KH-4 pictures of Tyura Tam.

(xii) KH-7 pictures of Tyura Tam.

(xiii) Engineering drawing of PROTON 1 based on the photography including both the missile and launch facilities.

(xiv) The performance chart of PROTON 1 indicating possibility of being able to put up to 50,000 pounds in orbit.

(xv) A picture of the facilities under construction now at Tyura Tam which will probably be ready in 1967 indicating possibilities of thrust and a booster involved in some two million pounds to five million pounds.

(xvi) A chart showing the various options available to the Soviets with their current capabilities.

3. It was pointed out that the next space event which could take place in the next 10 to 14 days could be a rendezvous and docking maneuver or another lunar shot this Thursday or Friday. Mr. Duckett summarized briefly his discussion with four points:

(a) The new booster;

(b) the communications satellite program;

(c) the extensive moon and planetary efforts; and

(d) the continuing construction of larger and more launch facilities.

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Mr. Duckett concluded by saying that the Soviet space program is broadening and is clearly an expensive program. Senator Magnuson inquired about the cost of the program and Mr. Duckett indicated he could not answer this in any meaningful terms except that it is an extensive program.

4. Senator Symington raised a series of questions on the U.S. satellite reconnaissance program including number of shots, how long in orbit, degree of resolution, all of which Dr. Wheelon answered. The Senator went further into the U-2 program over China and asked additional questions as to whether or not MIG 21s were being manufactured in Communist China. Dr. Wheelon fielded these questions without getting too specific.

5. Both Mr. Duckett and Dr. Wheelon indicated during the course of the briefing that this was sensitive material which went beyond the normal range of classification. Senator Symington responded indicating that there had never been any leaks from any of the committees in which he had participated. Dr. Wheelon sought the Chairman out after the meeting on the question of security reminders and hoped he had not offended Senator Symington. Chairman Anderson said he saw no reason for concern and that it was appropriate that the members have reminders on the sensitivity of information where necessary.

6. The members were unanimous in their view that this had been an excellent and informative briefing. In particular, Senator Magnuson and Senator Symington were exposed for the first time to information which they had not received before. The briefing lasted approximately an hour and fifteen minutes (3:00 to 4:15 p.m.).

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